

RECOGNIZING BOULDER COUNTY  
AIDS PROJECT ON ITS 20TH AN-  
NIVERSARY

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 29, 2005*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Boulder County AIDS Project, BCAP, and to honor their commitment to those in my community who are affected by HIV/AIDS. They are a model for advocacy and an invaluable asset to our community.

BCAP began in 1985 when two people volunteered two afternoons a week to answer a single borrowed telephone line. As the acronyms HIV, Human Immunodeficiency Virus, and AIDS, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, became household terms, and as the stigma about what was termed a "gay cancer" relaxed, the name of the organization was formally changed to the Boulder County AIDS Project.

BCAP has grown to include twelve staff members and over 300 volunteers. These volunteers work together with staff to serve those in the community who are infected with or affected by HIV and to educate the public about HIV and AIDS. In 2004, 368 HIV-infected individuals received services from the case-workers and volunteers at BCAP; 17,000 youth and adults heard presentations by the BCAP Speakers Bureau, over 500 received HIV antibodies testing and counseling, and thousands of people attended BCAP's AIDS awareness events. The dedication demonstrated by BCAP staff and volunteers is a praiseworthy example of how to make a difference.

As with all great causes and organizations in today's society, their merit stands before the blind eye of a restrictive budget. Despite the success of BCAP, many difficult obstacles affect the center. Changes in the federal response to HIV/AIDS impact their ability to provide evidence-based, scientifically-researched HIV prevention programming. Colorado state budget cuts affect BCAP's ability to meet the increased need for services in an economic climate of decreasing resources.

In response to these challenges, BCAP recently adjusted their prevention programs to focus on access to HIV-antibody testing and early access to HIV care. BCAP and the Boulder County Public Health Department estimate that 30 percent of the population in BCAP's service area are HIV positive and are unaware of it. To address this issue, BCAP will purchase a van to be equipped as a mobile HIV testing facility. This will allow BCAP to meet one of its strategic goals of enhancing its HIV-antibody testing program while reducing a significant barrier to access and care—the access to easy testing.

Even in the midst of struggle and looming challenges, the Boulder County AIDS Project goes above and beyond the call of duty to provide for those infected with HIV or affected by AIDS. Their dedication to this honorable cause has given dignity and comfort to individuals living with HIV and AIDS.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in thanking the Boulder County AIDS Project for their efforts in this commendable cause.

HONORING DR. ROBERT  
SMOTHERMAN

**HON. RON LEWIS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 29, 2005*

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable individual from my home district. Dr. Robert Smotherman, school superintendent of the Bardstown Independent School System, is retiring this month, bringing his distinguished career as an educator to a close.

Before becoming Superintendent in 1983, Dr. Smotherman spent a 9-year tenure as principal and assistant superintendent in the Kingsport, TN school system. He earlier taught in schools in Atlanta, Birmingham, and Nashville. During his 22 years as superintendent, Bardstown Independent Schools has been a catalyst for many Kentucky firsts including first in the state to create a private educational foundation to raise money for the school district; the first district to offer an educational program for all 3- and 4-year olds regardless of economics or special needs; the first district to mandate school uniforms; and the first district in Kentucky to move to a year-round calendar at all schools. He has also been a tireless advocate, throughout his tenure, for effective Adult Education. The current program offers a wide range of educational opportunity and the GED program, producing over 150 graduates annually.

Dr. Smotherman has been a consistent recipient of academic and community honors including being named one of the "Top 100 Superintendents in America" by Executive Educator Magazine, the Kentucky Department of Education's "Good Apple" Award, the American Legion Award for Educational Excellence, and the Jensen Award from the National Association for Year Round Schools, recognizing his outstanding leadership in a movement that he helped to organize. Dr. Smotherman served on the NAYRE Board of Directors and was later elected President of the national organization, the first Kentuckian to hold that position. In 2003, Dr. Smotherman was named to the Bardstown-Nelson County "Hall of Fame."

I applaud Robert Smotherman's accomplishments in public education, an occupation of great responsibility and ever greater reward, motivating young people to recognize and develop their talents and abilities. On behalf of so many in the Bardstown area, I would like to express my profound appreciation for his service and inspiration to the countless men and women who have benefited from his generosity and vision.

It is my great privilege to recognize Robert Smotherman today, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, for his many achievements as an educator. His unique dedication to the development and well-being of young people and the communities they now serve make him an outstanding citizen worthy of our collective honor and respect.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT  
FINANCING, AND RELATED PRO-  
GRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT,  
2006

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 28, 2005*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3057) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes:

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, this bill is far from perfect, but I think it deserves to be passed.

The bill provides important resources to help our allies in the struggle against international terrorism and against the narcotics trade. For example, it includes economic assistance for Afghanistan at the requested level of \$430 million, \$205 million above last year's level, but includes a new provision that withholds \$225 million of the total until the Secretary of State certifies that the national and local governments in Afghanistan are fully cooperating with the U.S.-funded narcotics eradication and interdiction efforts. The bill also includes \$220 million for military assistance for Pakistan to support their efforts in hunting terrorists along the Afghan border, as well as \$347 million—\$111 million above last year—for International Narcotics Control.

Some of the other high-priority items in the bill include much-needed assistance to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria—\$131 million more than the President's request and \$502 million more than in fiscal year 2005.

The Peace Corps is funded at \$325 million, \$8 million above fiscal 2005, and the bill includes provisions to provide for a greater role in oversight of U.S. taxpayer contributions to international organizations.

Of course, the bill is far from perfect, and I do not agree with all its priorities. I voted for a number of amendments that would have improved it and regret that not all of them were adopted.

I also voted against some amendments, including two that dealt with the sensitive subject of extradition from other countries of people accused of crimes in the United States.

One of those amendments, by my Colorado colleague, Representative BEAUPREZ, calls for cutting off any assistance to a country that refuses to comply with a request to extradite a person charged with killing a police officer in the United States.

Killing a policeman is a very serious matter, and I am a cosponsor of a bill (H.R. 2363) to authorize much more severe penalties for such fugitive killers of a peace officer—including any Federal, State, or local police officer.

However, I voted against the Beauprez amendment after receiving a communication from the District Attorney in Denver. He is currently working to complete the extradition from Mexico of a fugitive wanted in connection with the murder of a Denver police officer and has indicated that Congressional threats to reduce assistance as a way to bring pressure on the Mexican authorities run the risk of being counterproductive. I am not opposed to using leverage, including our foreign assistance programs, to insist that other countries extradite